4th December 1954]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Member that we have been securing all necessary information in order to enable the Government to take up a definite stand whenever we have to advise the Central Government."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Have the Government received any representation regarding the export of tapioca which is produced in large quantities in Malabar and which is fetching only a very low price now? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not remember to have seen any representation. So I would like to have notice."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister will represent to the Central Government that whenever a producer wishes to export these commodities to foreign countries, he may be permitted to do it himself so that the entire profit may go to him instead of to the middlemen? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The selection of personnel is for the Government of India to decide."

Deaths due to sewer gas in the City.

* 33 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of people who died during the last 2½ years as a result of getting into the *sewage* pipes in the City?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Three, Sir."

Deaths due to sewer gas in the City.

* 34 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one, Sanyasi, a mill worker, lost his life by asphyxia while attempting to rescue three municipal workers on May 30th, 1954, from being trapped in a cesspool at Madras; and

(*b*) the measures taken by the Government to prevent such dangers?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Corporation of Madras is bound to take the necessary measures to prevent such deaths and it has taken the following measures :

Sewers are provided with ventilating shafts at intervals for the escape of sewer gas. Before the thozhilalies are allowed to get into the manholes for cleaning or for removal of obstructions in the underground sewers, the doors of the manholes are first opened and sufficient time is allowed for the gas to escape from the manholes. The manholes on either side of the sewer length under operation are kept open during the period to facilitate the escape of poisonous gas freely. In addition, the thozhilalies are provided with